WO 2005/049867 PCT/US2004/037789

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying a candidate molecule that modulates a biological activity of a nucleic acid capable of forming a G-quadruplex structure, which comprises:

contacting a test molecule with the nucleic acid, wherein the nucleic acid or a portion thereof is in an intramolecular parallel G-quadruplex conformation; and

determining whether a portion of the test molecule interacts with a site located in the intramolecular parallel G-quadruplex conformation,

whereby a test molecule having a portion that interacts with the site is identified as a candidate molecule that modulates the biological activity of the nucleic acid.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the test molecule and the nucleic acid is contacted *in silico*.
 - 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is double-stranded.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is 30 or fewer nucleotides in length.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence located 5' of the *CMYC* gene.
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the nucleotide sequence TG₄AG₃TG₄AGG.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the site comprises one or more atoms in a G-tetrad of the G-quadruplex.
- 8. The method of claim 1, which further comprises determining whether a portion of the test molecule interacts with a site in a secondary structure adjacent to the G-quadruplex.
- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary structure adjacent to the G-quadruplex is formed by a nucleotide sequence in a double stranded nucleic acid complementary to the nucleotide sequence that forms the G-quadruplex.

WO 2005/049867 PCT/US2004/037789

10. The method of claim 1 or 8, wherein a portion of the test molecule also intercalates with a duplex region adjacent to the G-quadruplex.

- 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the interaction is a hydrogen bond.
- 12. The method of claim 1, which further comprises determining whether a candidate molecule modulates a biological activity of the nucleic acid.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the biological activity is an interaction of a protein with the nucleic acid.
 - 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the protein is NM23-H2.
- 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the interaction is binding of the protein to the nucleic acid.
 - 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the biological activity is DNA transcription.
- 17. The method of claim 12, wherein one or more nucleotides of the nucleic acid is substituted with a fluorescent nucleotide analog and the biological activity is determined by detecting the fluorescence of the nucleic acid.
- 18. A method for identifying a therapeutic that reduces cell proliferation in a system, which comprises contacting a system with a candidate molecule identified by the method of claim 1 and determining whether the candidate molecule reduces cell proliferation in the system, whereby a candidate molecule that reduces cell proliferation in the system is identified as the therapeutic.
 - 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the system is a group of cells.
 - 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the system is an animal.
- 21. A method for stabilizing an intramolecular parallel G-quadruplex conformation of a nucleic acid, which comprises contacting the nucleic acid with a quadruplex-interacting

WO 2005/049867 PCT/US2004/037789

molecule in the system, whereby the molecule stabilizes the intramolecular parallel G-quadruplex conformation.

- 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the system is a group of cells.
- 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the system is an animal.
- 24. A method for treating a cell proliferative condition in a subject, which comprises administering a candidate compound identified by the method of claim 1 or a therapeutic identified by the method of claim 18 to a subject in need thereof, whereby administering the candidate compound or the therapeutic reduces cell proliferation in the subject.
 - 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the cell proliferative condition is a cancer.
- 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the cell proliferative condition is colorectal cancer.
 - 27. The method of claim 24, wherein the cell proliferative condition is angiogenesis.